

Property Address 8716 Rosaryville Road, Rosaryville State Park, Upper Marlboro vicinity, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address Department of Natural Resources, State of Maryland, Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis,
MD 21401 Year Built 18th century/1931

Description:

Mount Airy was previously surveyed by the Historic American Building Survey and by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1979. Since the time of the previous surveys, the property is unaltered. However, the site, which has been open to the public as a state-operated historical site, is now indefinitely closed. According to Ranger Neil Harrick of the Department of Natural Resources, the house fails to meet building codes, due to such inadequacies as the fire detection and sprinkler systems, and has therefore, been closed to the public. The state is currently soliciting proposals from special interest groups to operate and maintain the site. They anticipate the re-opening of the site in Spring 1997.

National Register Evaluation:

Mount Airy is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B, for its association with Eleanor "Cissy" Medill Patterson. Mount Airy was owned by Ms. Patterson, who was a novelist and was appointed the editor-in-chief of the Washington Herald in 1931. In 1939 she purchased the Herald and the companion paper, the Times, merging them into the Times-Herald. In 1931, Mount Airy burned and was subsequently re-built. Therefore, most of the historic fabric of Mount Airy can be attributed to the re-building during the ownership of Ms. Patterson. In addition, the property meets Criterion C, as a significant example of the evolution of a building through the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. The structure, which was rebuilt after the 1931 fire, illustrates the evolution of architectural style, material and detail, through three centuries of historic building fabric and design. The shell of the original 1½-story, gambrel-roof section survived the fire, and although it was partially re-designed during the 1931 building campaign, it maintains the design, form, and some of the fabric from the eighteenth century. Likewise some of the nineteenth century fabric survived the fire and twentieth century building techniques are in evidence in the reconstructed portions of the building. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Finally, based upon the date of construction and the property type, there is a likelihood that an archaeological component could exist on the property. However, as no archaeological investigation has been conducted, the eligibility of the property under Criterion D cannot be assessed at this time.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The National Register boundary of Mount Airy follows the current property lines of Parcel 28 on Prince George's County Tax Map 118. This parcel is bounded on the south by Rosaryville Road and on the north by the lands of the Rosaryville State Park. The boundary includes 201.79 hectare (498.64 acres), the main house, the pond and various outbuildings, including a stable, dairy and meat house, and greenhouses. The size of the property holdings during the ownership of Cissy Patterson is unknown, however, at one time during the nineteenth century, the property included approximately 3642.3 hectare (9000 acres). The current acreage represents the current tax parcel boundary, which retains sufficient land to convey the property's setting and historical associations.

MHT CONCURRENCE:

Eligibility ☒ recommended ☐ not recommended

Criteria ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Comments: _____

Suzanne Pickens

07/21/1997

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

B. Kuntz
Reviewer, NR program

7/21/97
Date

Preparer:

P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

See also

→ DNR 3, 5, 6 ←
for greenhouse, & out building

1. Name

historic

Mount Airy

and/or common

Mount Airy, Dower House

2. Location

street & number

8716 Rosaryville Road

n/a not for publication

city, town

Upper Marlboro

☒ vicinity of

congressional district

Fourth

state

Maryland

code

24

county

Prince George's

code 033

3. Classification

Category

☐ district☒ building(s)☐ structure☐ site☐ object

Ownership

☒ public☐ private☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process☐ being considered☒ not applicable

Status

☐ occupied☒ unoccupied☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted☐ yes: unrestricted☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture☐ commercial☐ educational☐ entertainment☐ government☐ industrial☐ military☐ museum☐ park☐ private residence☐ religious☐ scientific☐ transportation☒ other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name

State of Maryland, Department of Natural Resources

street & number

Tawes State Office Building

city, town

Annapolis

n/a vicinity of

state Maryland 21401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

street & number

Main Street

city, town

Upper Marlboro

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust

Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1979

also HABS

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town

Annapolis

state Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

PG:82A-16

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mount Airy located one mile northeast of Rosaryville Road is situated on a rise of land in the middle of a densely wooded area. The house is surrounded by and is part of Rosaryville State Park, approximately 1200 acres.

Mount Airy, an eighteenth century dwelling suffered extensive fire damage in 1931 and was subsequently rebuilt and remodeled by Mrs. Eleanor "Cissy" Patterson. The following description of this hybrid structure generally reflects this 1930s construction. What little remains of the original eighteenth and nineteenth century fabric of the interior and exterior of the structure is discussed in the attached report submitted by James Wollon in June 1976.

Mount Airy is a three-part structure, the overall plan being J-shaped. The east wing is a one-story, five-bay, gambrel-roofed brick structure with flanking one-story, single bay, jerkinhead roofed additions to the north and south. The west wing is a two-story, five-bay, gable-roofed stucco-over-brick structure with a three-bay rear ell of the same height. This wing is set perpendicularly to the east wing. Connecting the east and west wings is a one-story, gambrel-roofed brick section centered along the west and east facades of the east and west wings, respectively.

East Wing: This three part wing was virtually destroyed in the 1931 fire. Photographs taken shortly after the fire show that only the lower portions of the exterior walls and part of the chimney in the northern gambrel end of the central section survived. Pre-fire photographs indicate that the 1930s reconstruction was not true to the original wing.

The main (east) facade of the central section is five bays, distinguished by a central doorway flanked by ten-light casement windows. These replaced the 6/9 double hung sash windows shown in early photographs. All windows now have wooden sills with architrave surrounds. The recessed six paneled door is framed with a similar architrave trim. The jambs are also paneled. An asbestos-shingled gambrel roof is centrally defined by two pedimented dormers with 6/6 sash windows. Rake boards and a narrow blank frieze further articulate the roof area. Early photographs indicate that the roof originally was covered with wood shingles. The dormers did not project from the roof plane as dramatically as they do today.

Corbel-capped brick chimneys are located on both gambrel ends.

This facade is laid in glazed header bond to the top of the window surround. Above this the brick is of Flemish bond. The west facade is laid in Flemish bond.

The north and south sections of the east wing are identical. A ten-light casement window surmounted by a pedimented dormer with a 6/6 sashed window characterize these east facades. Rake boards and a blank frieze outline the roof area. Like the central section, the first story windows were 6/9 sash, the dormers were not as pronounced and the roof was of wood shingles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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The north and south facades of the north and south sections, respectively, are distinguished by a doorway and a casement window. Both openings have jack-arched brick lintels. Directly below the jerkinhead is a similar, although smaller, double-mullioned window.

Both sections are laid in Flemish bond with random glazed headers. Of note is a non-glazed header brick inscribed "C.C." on the north facade of the north section.

West Wing: This two-story, gable-roofed wing, although suffering the least amount of fire damage, was extensively remodeled in the 1930s. Thus much of the eighteenth and nineteenth century architectural integrity is gone.

The stucco finish of the south facade is chipping from walls to reveal glazed Flemish bond on the first story, and common bond on the second story. This suggests that the pre-1800 west wing was raised in the nineteenth century to a full two-stories.

The main (south) facade is four bays, the three easternmost of which are recessed and defined by a two-story porch. This porch is supported by full two-story, stucco-over-brick columns with wooden boxed bases and corbeled stucco-over-brick capitals. Flanking these monumental pillars are pilasters which have received identical base and capital treatment.

first and second stories are similarly articulated: a central doorway flanked by 6/6 sashed windows. All windows have wooden sills and architrave surrounds. The first-story entrance is framed by fluted pilasters which continue into fluted arcs that join each other in a projecting wooden keystone. Above the six-paneled door is a semicircular transom. The jambs are paneled. The second-story door is also recessed, six-paneled and surmounted by a semicircular transom, but a simple wooden surround replaces the elaborate first story frame. A wooden balustrade extends across the second story porch.

The western bay is distinguished by a central aproned window on the first story and a corresponding wooden silled window on the second story. Both windows are 6/6 sash and are flanked by shutters. A five part, semicircular lunette punctuates the pedimented gable of this bay. A corbeled brick cornice further articulates this bay.

A 6/6 sash window is found at both levels of the east facade of this bay.

A sketch published in the July 16, 1892 edition of The Evening Star, shows a pediment over the columned porch and no interruption in the pitched roof of the western bay. All twentieth century photographs (both pre- and post-fire) however depict the south facade as it appears today.

An exterior brick chimney is located in the western gable end. An interior, stucco-over-brick chimney rises above a parapeted eastern gable end.

The north facade of this west wing shares many of the architectural details of the south facade. An identical recessed two-story porch extends across the three easternmost bays. A three-bay ell projects from the western bay. The east facade of this section is distinguished by a massive stucco-over-brick exterior chimney. Little distinguishes the remaining facades. Both the two-story porch and the projecting ell

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date from the early twentieth century. Photographs show that the three easternmost bays extended northwards, almost in alignment with the north section of the east wing. After the 1931 fire, which damaged this section, a duplicate of the south facade's two-story porch was constructed as well as the northern ell of the eastern bay.

Central Wing: This wing, like the east wing was totally destroyed in the fire. Pre-fire photographs indicate that this wing, although originally one story, was raised to two stories with the addition of dormers in the twentieth century. After the fire the section was restored to its one-story height. This gambrel-roofed wing is one bay wide with identical north and south facades. Laid in Flemish bond, these facades are distinguished by a central, single-mullioned, ten-light window and pedimented dormer with a 6/6 sash window.

OUTBUILDINGS

In a 1976 evaluation of the park land and buildings at Mount Airy, the Department of Natural Resources listed 37 buildings which included dwellings, barns, garages, animal shelters, silos, and machinery sheds. In addition to the outbuildings described below only one barn was noted as being "old", presumably 19th century.

The pond is a local landmark. Located near Rosaryville Road, bordering the lane to the house, this man-made pond covers an area of four-and-one-half acres. Its age has not yet been determined. Plantings around the shore include holly, laurel, rhododendron, and a variety of flowers.

The Calvert family cemetery was located north of the house. In 1949 the graves were moved to St. Thomas' Church at Croom.

Outbuildings

1. Stable. Some distance south of the dwelling is a brick carriage house-stable with overall dimensions approximately 26 x 64 feet. It is of common bond with occasional header courses. Tall, narrow ventilating slits occurring at regular intervals on both sides have been filled in. The roof framing appears original. Some rafters at the east end of the building are modern, which reflects the new addition at the east end since 1931. A silo was at this location earlier. Between the silo site and the stable is a well (now covered by the stable addition) dug between 1903 and 1931, which is still in use.

2. Dairy and Meat House. This building stands a short distance northeast of the gambrel-roofed part of the dwelling house. The upstairs was used as a meat house, and the ground floor was used as a dairy according to a former resident. It is a square building of braced frame construction covered with bevel-edged flush siding on a brick foundation laid in common bond. The roof is missing but it was probably pyramidal on this 12-foot square building. Nails and other construction details indicate an early 19th century date.

3. Old Greenhouse. Almost balancing the dairy and meathouse is another outbuilding southeast of the east part of the dwelling house. Built of brick, it measures 12 x 18 feet approximately. Its asymmetrical gabled roof is entirely of 20th century construction.

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Its brick walls, laid in common bond, with upper courses curiously following the roof pitches, appear to date from the early 19th century, but with later alterations. From 1903 to 1931, this structure was used as a greenhouse when a glass structure extended to the east.

4. Modern Greenhouse. Located southeast of the dwelling, this elaborate metal structure was built in 1935 by Lord and Burham of Philadelphia, Pa. The glass is now missing from this L-shaped greenhouse with its brick potting shed on the southeast side. The large part of the greenhouse is in two sections.

5. Tennis Courts, Swimming Pool, Formal Gardens. Between the old greenhouse and the new one, southeast of the dwelling, tennis courts and swimming pool now occupy the site of former formal gardens designed by Pierre L'Enfant. Newer gardens which were designed after the 1931 fire, lie to the east of the gambrel roofed section of the dwelling. There are quite a few old boxwood in the center of the circular drive at the south front of the house. There are many large, old trees and a gigantic white azalea in the front yard.

8. Significance

PG: 82A-16

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1931-1948

Builder/Architect

unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criterion: B

Applicable Exception: G

Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The significance of Mount Airy in Prince George's County derives from association with Eleanor "Cissy" Medill Patterson (1884-1948), the mercurial editor and publisher of the Times-Herald which under her direction became one of the most famous newspapers in Washington at the time. Mrs. Patterson acquired Mount Airy, a three part house begun in the eighteenth century, in 1931 after the house was extensively damaged by fire. She had the house, then known as Dower House, completely renovated as a country residence that she prized for the privacy it afforded. As the rural retreat of a notorious member of Washington society Mount Airy was the scene of numerous functions and gatherings that included the socially and politically famous of the nation's capital. Included among the guests at Mount Airy are President and Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, Louis Howe, William Randolph Hearst, Eugene Myer, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Evelyn Walsh McLain and numbers of foreign emissaries. Mrs. Patterson occupied the house until her death in 1948.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT

By tradition Mount Airy is said to be the site of a hunting lodge built for the Calvert family in the seventeenth century. In 1752 a Calvert house near Upper Marlboro was destroyed by fire. Another tradition holds that the oldest section of Mount Airy is the seventeenth century hunting lodge as rebuilt after the 1752 fire. Evidence supporting this claim is not known to exist. The header brick bonding indicates that the house could date from the mid-eighteenth century, which would place the property under the period of ownership of Benedict Calvert from about 1749 to his death in 1788. Most likely the earliest section of the present Mount Airy was built for Benedict Calvert as a residence.

Benedict Calvert was an influential citizen as a member of the Governor's Council and Collector of Patuxent. His daughter, Eleanor, was married to John Park Custis, step-son of George Washington at Mount Airy in 1774 and Washington recorded numerous visits at the house in his diaries (Correll, pp. 5-6).

Mount Airy was retained by the Calvert family until 1903 when the property was sold at auction following the death of Miss Eleanor Calvert in 1902. The new owner was Matilda "Tillie" Roome Littel a painter and musician from New York who, in 1908, married Percival M. Duvall of Prince George's County. Mrs. Duvall enlarged and renovated the house, which was probably added to in the nineteenth century, and opened part of it to the public for social events. Numerous distinguished people including William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover, foreign dignitaries, and the infamous Cissy Patterson who purchased the property in 1931. Mrs. Duvall named the house Dower House.

On February 1, 1931 Mount Airy was extensively damaged by fire. Photographs on file at the Library of Congress illustrate that the interior of the earliest portion was gutted as well as the section containing the present east staircase. Mrs. Duvall sold the property to Eleanor "Cissy" Medill Patterson of Washington who had the house completely renovated. No effort, apparently, was made to restore the house to the pre-fire period beyond saving the basic configuration on the earliest portion. The type of windows, the size of the dormers, the interior decorative detailing, and brick bonding used for the rebuilt sections of the exterior walls do not correspond with the evidence provided by a series of pre-fire photographs also on file at the Library of Congress.

The Patterson renovations were to the central and west portions. The post-fire photographs at the Library of Congress and the pre-fire views shown in John H. Scarff's "Some Houses of Colonial Maryland" of The Monograph Series published in 1930 illustrate that the central section, at least the east portion, was larger than the present. The central section once had a third story and a gable such as is on the southern end of the west section. The interior decoration of the west section is said to date from the Patterson era. Mrs. Patterson, who continued the name Dower House, also had several out buildings added.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

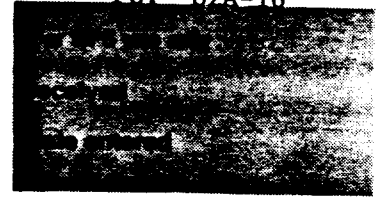
Eleanor "Cissy" Medill Patterson had been born and raised as the daughter of Robert Patterson, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, and granddaughter of Joseph Medill, founder of that newspaper and one of the founders of the Republican party. The young Miss Patterson had married the Count Joseph Gizychi, a minor Polish nobleman who frequented the courts of Emperor Franz Joseph and Czar Nicholas II. The marriage disintegrated and shortly after her return to the United States, the Countess settled into her mother's house on Dupont Circle in Washington. Mrs. Patterson - although later remarried, used her maiden name from the late 1920's on - published two successful novels, Glass Houses and Fall Flight. These successes, and the strong family tradition of newspaper publication, caused her to seek out and succeed in being appointed in 1930, Editor-in-Chief of the down-and-out Washington Herald by its publisher, William Randolph Hearst. "Cissy's" brilliant innovations in the areas of reporting, printing and advertising - innovations which are now commonplace throughout the industry - turned the Washington Herald into one of the less than half dozen most successful and influential newspapers in the country. In 1939 she purchased the Herald and its evening companion, the Times from Hearst. She merged the two papers into the Times-Herald as the first round-the-clock newspaper with ten daily editions.

Mount Airy was bequeathed to Ann Bowie Smith by Cissy Patterson. Mrs. Smith sold the property to the State of Maryland in 1972.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory:
Prince George's County (PG: 82A-16): Bridget Deale Hartman,
Margaret W. Cook, and Mary Sue Crouser, surveyors, 1979.

Corell, Calvin. Design Program for the Stabilization and Restoration of
Mt. Airy Mansion, 1980 prepared for Department of Natural Resources.

Healy, Paul F. Cissy: The Biography of Eleanor "Cissy" Patterson.
Garden City, New Jersey: Doubleday, 1966.

Hoge, Alice Albright, Cissy Patterson: New York: Random House, 1966.

Martin, Ralph G. Cissy. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979.

"Harriman, Florence Jaffray Hurst," Current Biography, 1940, pp. 365-366.

Roberts, Chalmers M. The Washington Post: The First 100 years.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1977.

Prince George's County Land Records, Courthouse, Upper Marlboro, MD.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See Continuation Sheet No.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

For verbal boundary description and boundary justification, see Continuation Sheet No.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
ate		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title

organization

date

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

JAMES THOMAS WOLLON, JR., AIA.

Architect

600 Craig's Corner Road
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

Office telephone 870-6748

Residence telephone 870-6748

JUN 11 1976

June 3, 1976

MOUNT AIRY

MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST

Introduction

On 1 June 1976, at the request of Mr. Rob Bushnell of the Department of Natural Resources and Mr. John Pearce of the Maryland Historical Trust, I inspected MOUNT AIRY, Rosaryville, Prince Georges County, Maryland. Ms. Grace Fielder of the Department of Natural Resources made her research available to me. She and Park Historian Ross Kimmel accompanied me during part of the inspection. Mr. Frasier Bishop of the Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Park Service, and Mr. John Walton of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission accompanied me for the duration of the day.

At this time, the electrical system at MOUNT AIRY is undergoing renovation; presumably other systems and finishes will be renovated in the near future. The object of my inspection was:

1. to view, report on and photograph historic building elements exposed at this time which will be concealed when rehabilitation is completed and
2. to record in this report, and to photograph, any observations I could make in this one day of MOUNT AIRY's pre-1931 (the year of the disastrous fire there) fabric.

Orientation

For ease in discussion, it is assumed that the approach front, with the massive masonry columns, is the south front, and that the gambrel-roofed wing faces east. Actually the approach front is the southeast and the gambrel-roofed wing actually faces northeast.

Significance

MOUNT AIRY was one of Maryland's most historic and most interesting structures and the fire there in 1931 was surely one of the most tragic events ever to befall an historic structure.

In spite of the building's superficially twentieth-century appearance, a surprising amount of pre-fire fabric remains; except for portions of exterior walls, most of it is normally concealed.

Pre-1800 Fabric

1. Center section, east (brick, $1\frac{1}{2}$ storeys, gambrel roof)
 - a. Measurements: approximately $21\frac{1}{2}$ by 42 feet
 - b. Bricks: averaging $3"(-) \times 3\frac{3}{4}" \times 8\frac{1}{4}"$
 7 courses and 7 joints = 24 inches
 ✓ All-header bond east front, Flemish
bond west front

This section was constructed before its two flanking wings but no visual proof is apparent to indicate that it predates the pre-1800 structures to its west. Only exterior walls, more or less to the window-head elevation, remain after the fire, and nothing remains visible internally except the jambs and arch of the large fireplace in the north end, first storey, and possibly the arch (only) of the south fireplace in the same room. The paneling in the large first storey room is post-1931. The mantel in the north room, second storey, is English, 18th century with a modern bed-mould and shelf. The paneled closet doors and recess in the south room, second storey, is post-1931 work. There is no cellar, a concrete slab immediately beneath the floorboards being apparently on grade.

All-header bond is characteristic of several early Maryland buildings, the earliest being McDowell Hall at St. John's College, commenced in 1743 as a Governor's residence. Flemish bond is characteristic of most 18th century Maryland buildings. Photographs taken of the ruins immediately after the fire indicate Flemish bond in the north wall of this section, covered by the north wing, indicating it may have been intended as an exterior wall. The absence or presence of "grapevine" joints (behind existing plaster, now concealed) in this wall may shed further light on its being an exterior wall, originally. The wings are not bonded into the center section and their bricks are of different sizes, indicating them to be additions.

Ivy obscures most exterior walls but the post-fire photographs suggest that the existing pattern of masonry openings is coeval with the all-header bond walls.

One of the characteristic locations for stairs in early Maryland buildings is in a squarish wing centered on one long facade, a location and a structure not unlike the existing stair location immediately west of this section. No visible construction in this area remains from before the 1931 fire, including the floor joists, visible due to the electrical work, the exterior walls

and the foundation. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ storey structure which stood here before the fire was raised to that height in the 20th century above an earlier structure of approximately the existing dimensions, a sequence documented in published photographs.

2. South wing (brick, $1\frac{1}{2}$ storeys, gambrel roof):

- a. Measurements: approximately 20 feet deep by 16 feet wide
- b. Bricks: averaging $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{1}{4}$ "
5 courses and 5 joints = 16 inches
Flemish bond, glazed headers below window-sill elevation

This section was an addition to the center section and it probably dates from the same period. Like the center section, only exterior walls remain after the fire and nothing remains internally. The wide south window was inserted after the walls were built, probably in the early 20th century but before the fire. Some published photographs do not show it.

*also
b. not
fr. English
(noting)*
The pine paneling in the first storey is largely old, probably of the 18th century, but it is reinstalled here from another building. The interior faces of the doors and the surrounding backband trim probably belong to the paneling but substantial portions of the crown moulding appear to be of the 20th century. The carved mantel is English of the 18th century.

3. North wing (brick, $1\frac{1}{2}$ storeys, gambrel roof):

- a. Measurements: approximately 20 feet deep by $18\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide
- b. Bricks: averaging $2\frac{3}{4}$ " x $4\frac{1}{4}$ " x 9" (-)
4 courses and 4 joints = 14 inches
Flemish bond and glazed headers like South Wing

This section was an addition to the center section and it probably dates from the same period. Like the center section, only the lower portions of the exterior walls remain after the fire and nothing remains internally. Of interest is a brick inscribed

C. C.

in the north end close to the northwest corner. Four holes around it indicate that it may have been covered with protective material. A wall hydrant immediately beneath it suggests that it may easily disappear or be accidentally destroyed if the plumbing system is replaced or renovated.

The carved and inlaid marble mantel in the first storey is English or French; the carved wooden mantel above is English and both date from the 18th century.

4. Vault, basement of the center section which connects the $1\frac{1}{2}$ storey gambrel-roofed sections to the east with the 2 storey stucco sections to the west:

- a. Measurements: approximately $14\frac{1}{2}$ by 25 feet, internally; possibly it was approximately 36 feet long originally

This barrel-vaulted basement space does not coincide with columns or walls above, suggesting that it predates them. Other examples of such structures suggest that this one was covered by a conventional above-grade structure, the exterior walls of which coincided with the walls of the vault. Such vaults were used for the storage of root vegetables, wine and liquor.

The vaulted room ends at a brick wall approximately $9\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the west wing. Bricks of that wall are smaller and in the northwest corner of the vault room, the whitewashed vault walls may be seen extending more than 6 feet beyond the present west wall, behind the existing stairwell descending into the $9\frac{1}{2}$ foot space. Beneath that staircase, the east wall of the west wing appears to be of early, large hand-made brick and a blocked opening, such as a doorway, is apparent. The east end wall of the vault room appears to be coeval and bonded with the vault walls themselves.

5. West wing (brick, stucco finish, now 2 storeys)

- a. Measurements: approximately $23\frac{1}{2}$ feet square
- b. Brick size: (first storey) $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " x $9\frac{1}{2}$ "
3 courses and 3 joints = 12 inches
Flemish bond

The first storey of this wing is of unusually large bricks. A good expanse is visible in the south facade, between the window and the southeast corner. The original southeast corner, with queen closers, is apparent, with the addition of the pilaster adjacent. Early construction extends approximately 6'-9" above the first floor line and upper walls are later, being of smaller brick laid in common bond. Some original Flemish bond is visible on the west wall near the southwest corner, in the first storey only. A small area of brick is exposed on the face of the exterior west chimney, in the basement storey; it is of the very large bricks, laid in common bond. This is an area which may have been burned out due to the fireplaces within and the visible brickwork may be a later patch.

This wing's basement storey is above grade on its west and north side.

The first storey window centered in the south front has been inserted in the wall after its initial construction. As no

other fenestration is apparent, and the existing is logical, it may be assumed that the original window was in the same location but narrower.

In the basement storey, little is visible which predates the 20th century finishes. No fireplace is apparent although one probably exists behind existing finishes. Two hewn wooden girders spanning east-and-west support the first floor joists at their approximate third points.

In the first storey, a substantial portion of the brick wall is visible: the south wall from the south window to the southeast corner, from the floor to about three feet above the floor. The soft brick appears coeval with early brickwork observed outside. The many wooden nailers built into the head joints suggests the room was paneled or wainscotted originally, a finish undoubtedly removed for style in the early 19th century.

No other pre-1800 work was apparent in this wing.

19th Century Fabric

Massive alterations and additions took place at MOUNT AIRY in the 1820-1840 period. The walls of the west wing were raised to two full storeys, they were given a corbeled brick cornice and the south front was given a brick pediment in the roof with a semi-circular window. Exterior walls were covered with stucco, a stylish material and one which could cover the unsightliness of the alterations.

Walls and round brick columns were raised over the basement vault but their alignment seems not to relate to the vault's walls, suggesting that they were new at that time (ca. 1820-1840) not remodeled original work. They were stuccoed to suit current taste and to match the required stucco to the west. The second storey balcony is typical of the early 19th century. By the 20th century, when photographs began to be published, the columned center section extended northwards, nearly to the alignment of the most northerly wall of the old $1\frac{1}{2}$ storey gambrel-roofed brick section. Now it is impossible to conjecture the extent of the original ca. 1820-1840 depth. A sketch published in 1892 (Evening STAR, July 16, 1892) shows a conventional pediment above the southerly columns, a form to be expected with such massive columns, a form consistent with a structure extending northwards beyond the existing shallow entrance hall. All published photographs show a pitched roof like the existing, without the pediment.

The bricks of the columns are moulded for the round columns. The capitals appear to be of corbeled brick, stuccoed, but one (Aquia Creek?) sandstone capital stands in the hedge off the

7 | southwest corner of the house, suggesting that the original capitals were of single pieces of stone, carved to imitate corbeled brick: unlikely but anything is possible in an historic building.

1. Entrance and Stair Hall

Most interior details appear to be post-fire and at least the northerly columns and associated balcony are post-fire due to the earlier structure which extended into the present north yard. The staircase is exceedingly plain for the period; the underside of the staircase from the first floor to the second is visible from the basement; its members are hand-planed and its soffit was once lathed and plastered, all indicating early 19th century work. The round rail is typical of the early 19th century but its many splices indicate inexpensive 20th century reinstallation, possibly from another building, possibly from this building, reinstalled after substantial damage in the fire. The Carpenter locks in the first storey are English, typically used in early 19th century America; their associated doors are of the 20th century.

Rafters and second storey ceiling joists are visible in the attic. The southerly rafters are, largely, original (i.e. to the early 19th century) being of straight-sawn material, tapered in depth and (formerly) joined at the ridge with a pegged joint; the northerly rafters, and the ridge beam which eliminates the original ridge joint, are 20th century. Studs forming the southerly knee wall are rough 1x6's, secured to the joists with wrought-iron nails, unexpected but not unknown in the early 19th century. Much original (i.e. to the early 19th century) lathe remains on the knee walls, being handsplit, fastened with cut nails, characteristic of the period. Floor joists exposed in the southerly eave crawl space (over the porch) are of straight-sawn material, undoubtedly of the early 19th century. Studs and floor joists exposed in the northerly eave crawl space (over the porch) are all of the 20th century. Flooring is face-nailed with cut nails.

2. West Wing

Most interior details, in both storeys, appear to be of the 20th century, although the paneled door jambs with pegged mortise-and-tenon construction in both storeys date from the early 19th century. The carved and inlaid marble mantel in the first storey is English, probably ca. 1780 but possibly ca. 1900. The wooden mantel in the second storey is of the 20th century.

In the attic, most of the floor joists and roof framing, visible in the eave crawl spaces, and the flooring matches work described in the Entrance and Stair Hall, dating from the early 19th century. A door connecting this attic with the attic above the hall is of vertical beaded boards, secured to ledges with wrought nails, hung on wrought HL hinges fastened with hand-made

screws. The wrought iron rim lock has oval brass knobs. This is all typical of inexpensive early 19th century work.

20th Century Fabric

The destructive fire necessitated a total rebuilding of the old gambrel-roofed east wing, but within the exterior walls. Old mantels and one room of paneling were introduced from other buildings.

The fire apparently did no damage, or only superficial damage, to the entrance and stair hall structure but most of it was refinished and retrimmed in the post-fire restoration, and the massive structure to its north was eliminated.

The west wing was, likewise, refinished and largely re-trimmed in the post-fire restoration.

In the 20th century the west wing was expanded by the addition of three bays to the north, three full storeys in height. An early 19th century mantel was installed in its second floor. Published photographs, interior finishes and details in all storeys, and structural details visible in the attic, indicate the 20th century construction date of this entire wing.

Early Outbuildings

1. Standing a short distance northeast of the old east wing is a square outbuilding of braced-frame construction, covered with bevel-edge flush siding, on a brick foundation laid in common bond. Siding nails are cut and there is no evidence of earlier wrought-iron nails. The roof is missing but it was probably pyramidal on this building 12 feet square. Much of the brick foundation has disappeared and the massive Wisteria vines offer most of its present structural support. Nails and other construction details indicate an early 19th century date.

2. Almost balancing this first outbuilding is a second, southeast of the old east wing. Of brick, it measures 12 by 18 feet, approximately. Its asymmetrical gable roof is entirely of 20th century construction. Its brick walls, laid in common bond, with upper courses curiously following the roof pitches, appear to date from the early 19th century, but with later alterations.

3. Some distance south of the dwelling is a brick carriage house-stable, its overall measurements approximately 26 by 64-2/3 feet. It is also of common bond with occasional header courses. Tall narrow ventilating slots occurring rather regularly on both sides have been filled with masonry. The roof framing appears original, every other pair of rafters being hewn, joined

at the ridge with a pegged half-lapped joint and with collar beams half-lapped and secured with cut nails. Other rafters are modern.

Attic flooring is secured with cut nails.

This structure appears to date from the early 19th century but its early 20th century stalls and associated interior finishes are of interest.

A brick east of the east door in the south facade is carved

C.C.

and it might relate to a similar carving found near the northwest corner of the old east wing.

Additional Recommended Research

The 1798 Federal Direct Tax records describe buildings standing in that year by dimension, material, number of storeys and often use. If they exist for this particular region, they should be examined and compared with these observations.

For proper maintenance, the vines and other plant materials which have grown too large should be removed from the walls. Ivy should be cut off at the ground, allowed to die, and be removed when thoroughly dry and brittle. New growth need not be prohibited, unless it is damaging the structure, but it should be controlled, trimmed from openings, woodwork, the roof, etc. Aesthetically, it adds a great deal to the character of the house. Likewise, the Wisteria on the columns might be allowed to grow, but with control to prevent damage.

Another inspection (or other inspections) should follow at least:

- a. exposing of all exterior walls (when ivy and failing stucco is removed)
- b. removal of failing plaster within
- c. removal, prior to renovation of, plumbing and heating system
- d. removal of deteriorated basement floors and other finishes
- e. any excavation for underground utility lines such as water, sewage lines, septic tanks, drain fields, etc.

Ersement

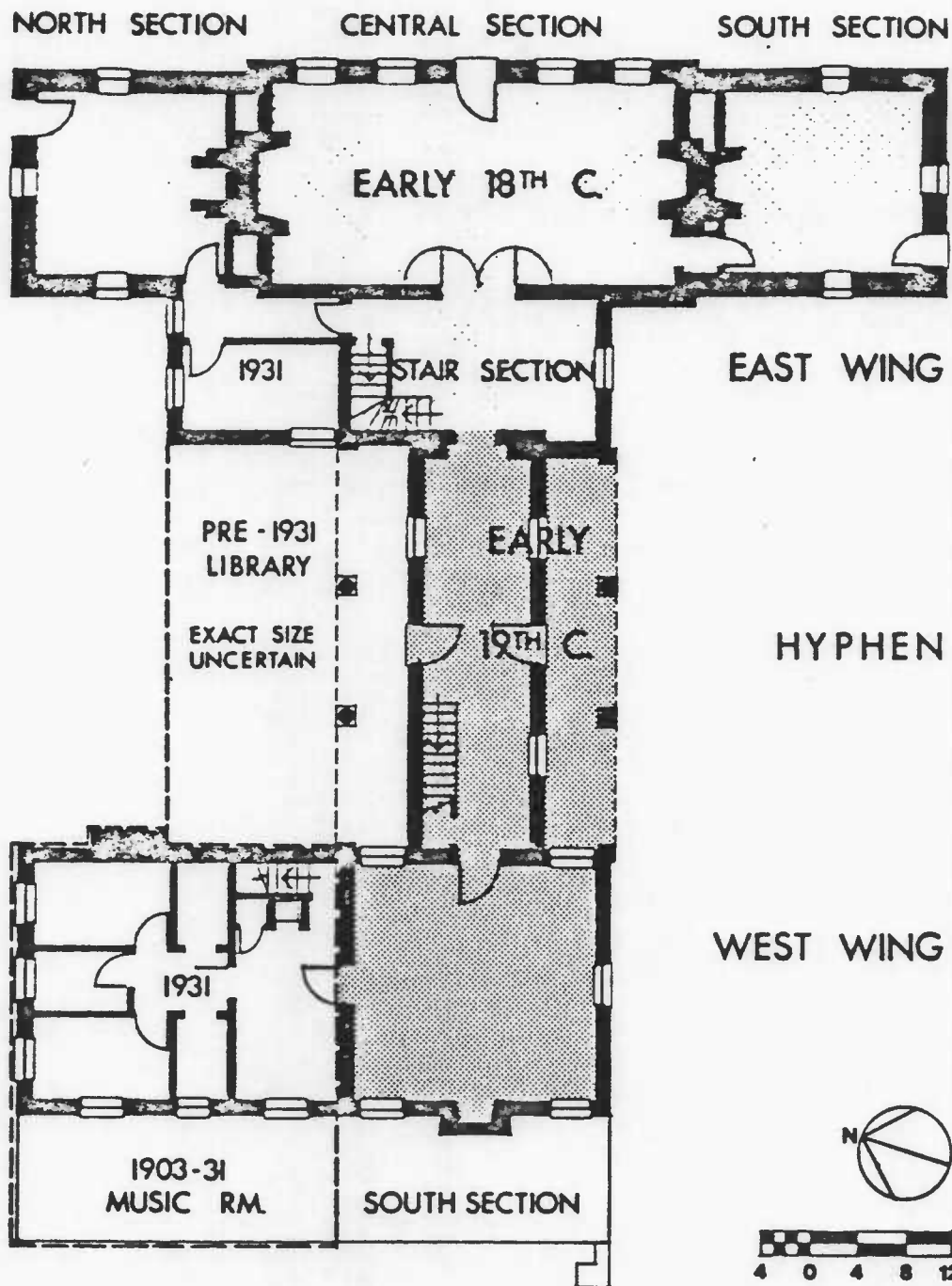
Pg 82A-16

Form 10-445
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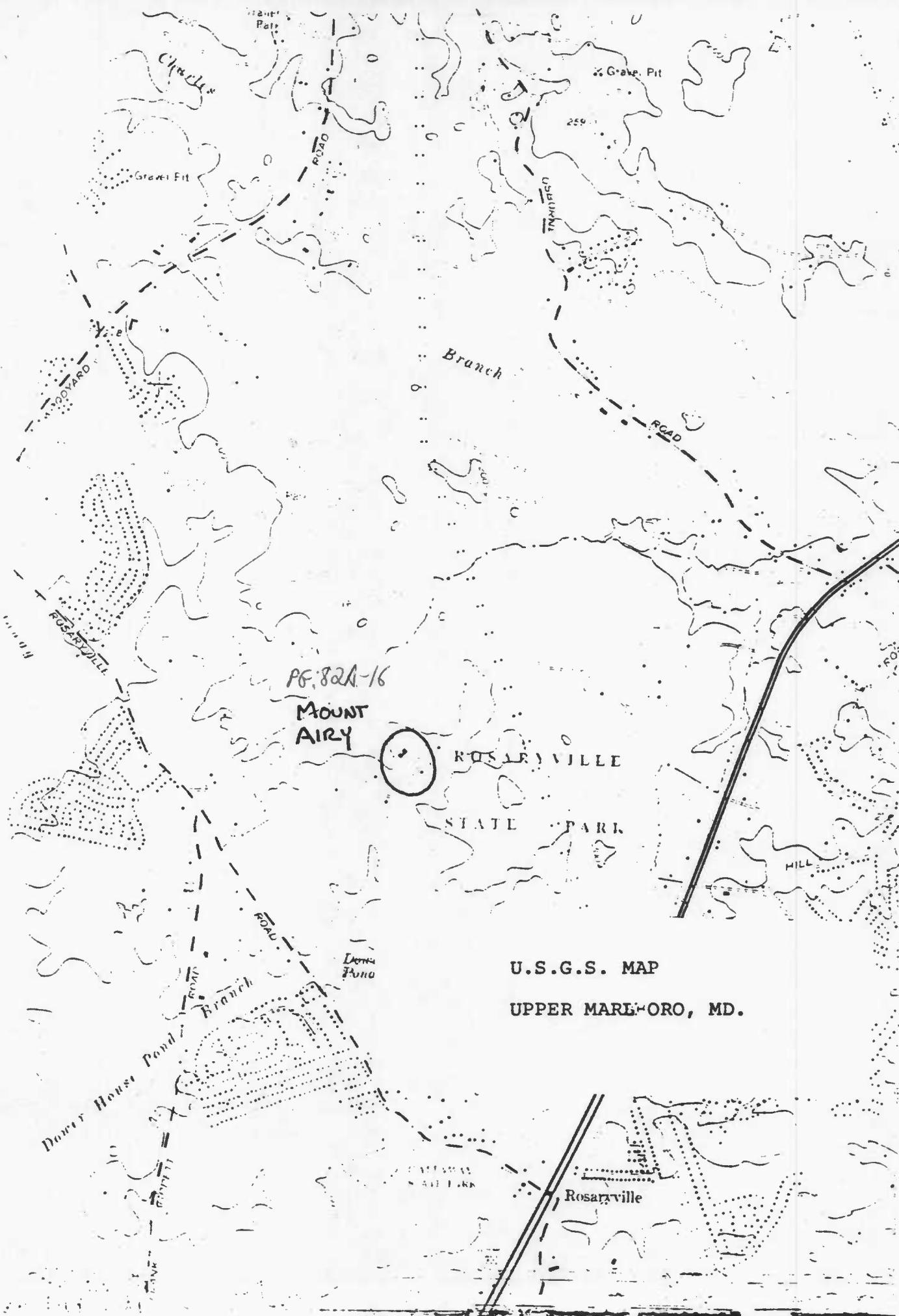
1. STATE Md. COUNTY PG TOWN VICINITY #58 STREET NO. 1 mile n.e. Rosaryville Rd.		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY	
ORIGINAL OWNER Calvert family ORIGINAL USE Hunting lodge. PRESENT OWNER E.J. Smith PRESENT USE Private dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION stucco NO. OF STORIES 2 1/2		2. NAME Mount Airy Dowd House DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
<p>OPEN TO PUBLIC</p> <p>Large and well-kept estate. Many outbuildings and cottages. Tenants on property. Large greenhouse going to ruin. Main house 2 1/2 story yellow stucco Plastered chimneys. Metal roof. Balcony on second floor. Brick stable and cottage south of house. Main house secluded and very difficult to see. Long entrance road. Pond at entrance. No danger.</p> <p>Original house destroyed in 1931 by fire.</p> <p>White Pine Series, Vol <u>XVI</u> #4 (AA City Pub. Lib)</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. Forman, 88 Early Manor. 1934, p 83, 88 (photo) Eale, Bowie, 19, 20, 99, 100, 112-114, 256, 278, 422.		7. PHOTOGRAPH Color # 779, 934, 938	
9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER		DATE OF RECORD	

Rinn, Survey, p 161

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND DETAILS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



CHRONOLOGICAL PLAN





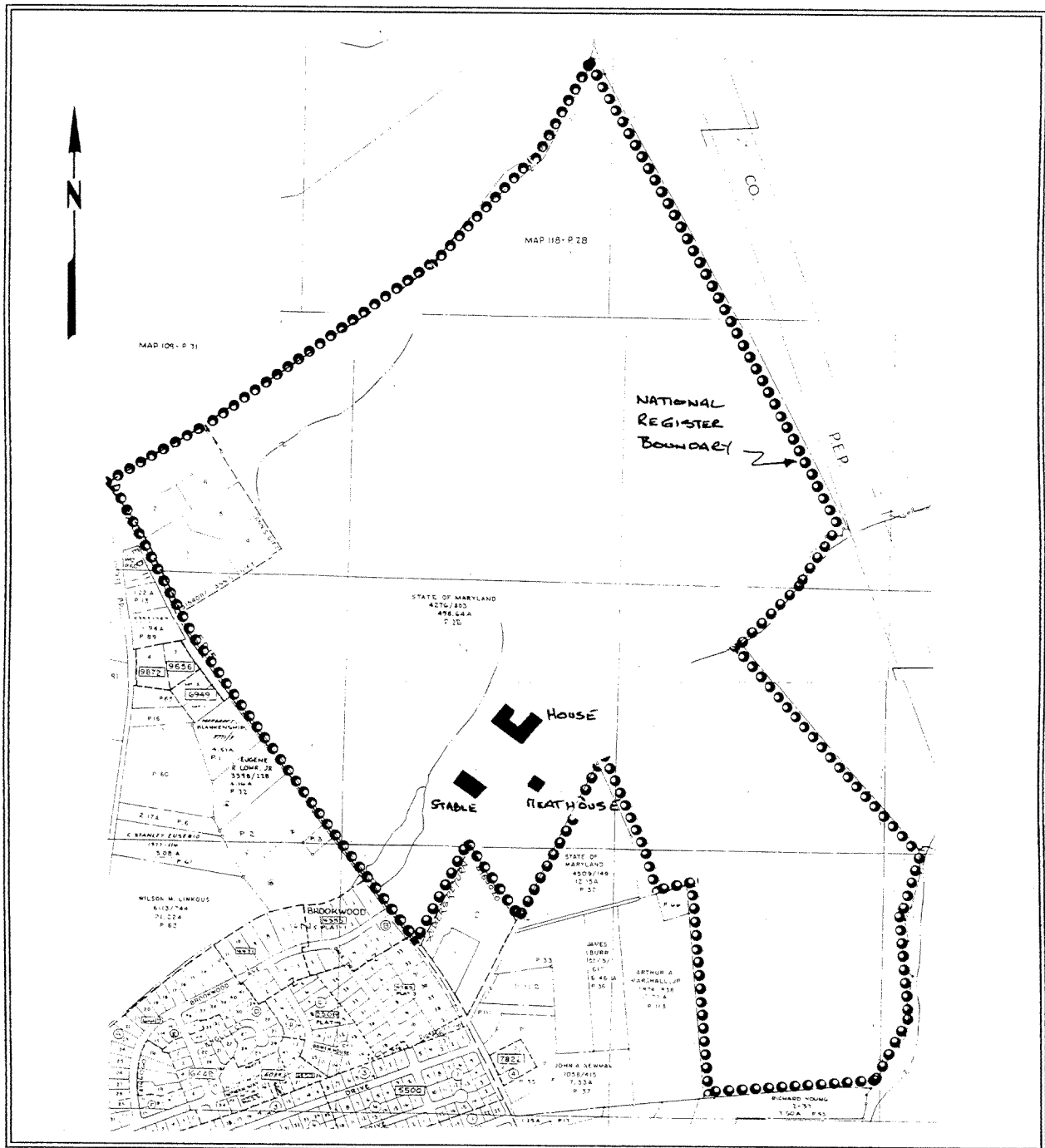
Mount Airy following the Feb. 1, 1931 fire
NE view of 18th century section, Lib. of Congress photo

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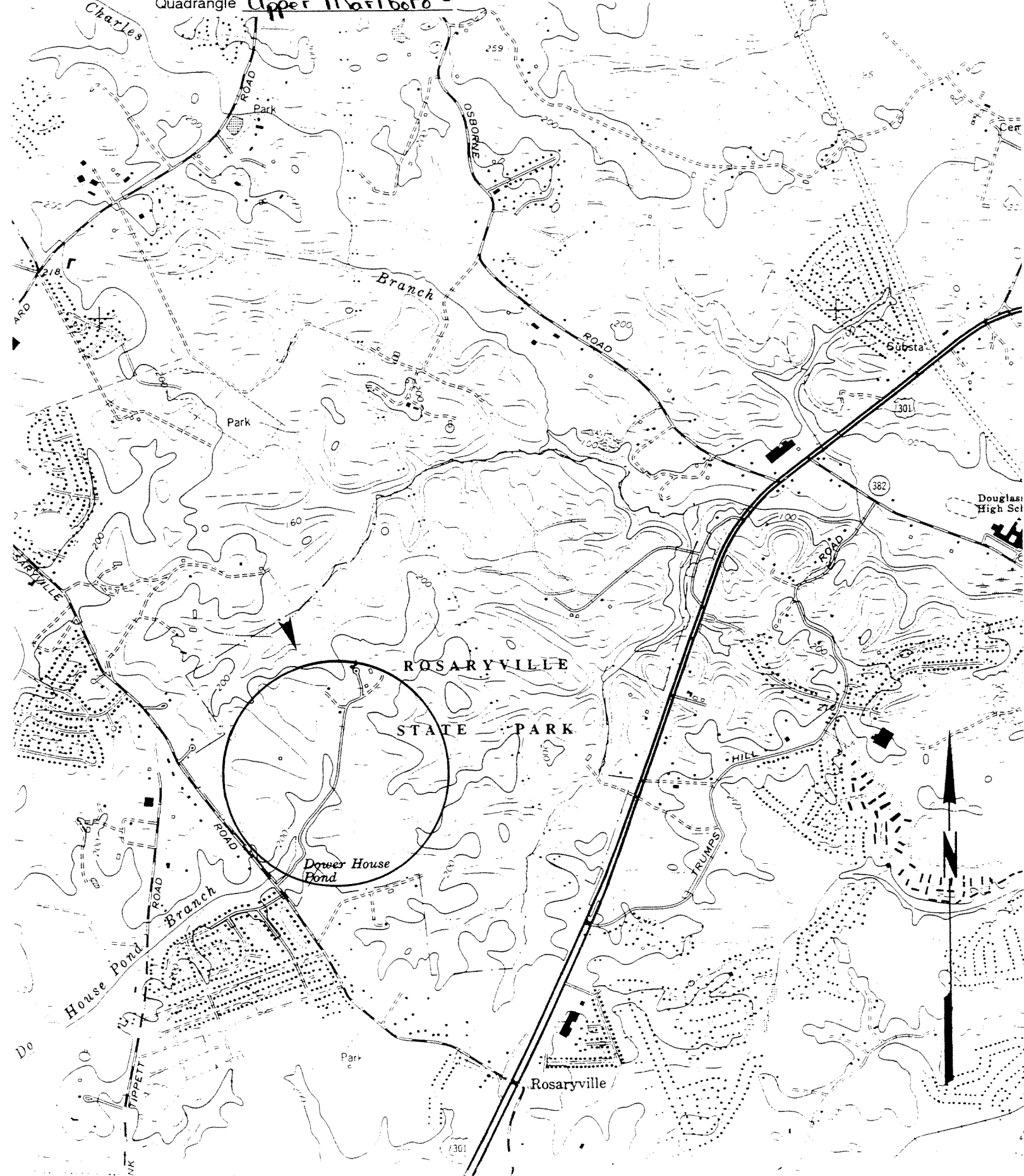
Property Address 8716 Rosaryville Road, Rosaryville State Park, Upper Marlboro vicinity, Prince George's County
Owner Name/Address Department of Natural Resources, State of Maryland, Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401
Year Built 18th century/1931

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



Preparer:
P.A.C. Spero & Company
September 1996

U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study
Survey # A 212, PG: 82A-16
Property Name Mount Airy
Town/County Upper Marlboro vicinity / Prince George's Co.
Quadrangle Upper Marlboro







PG.82A-16

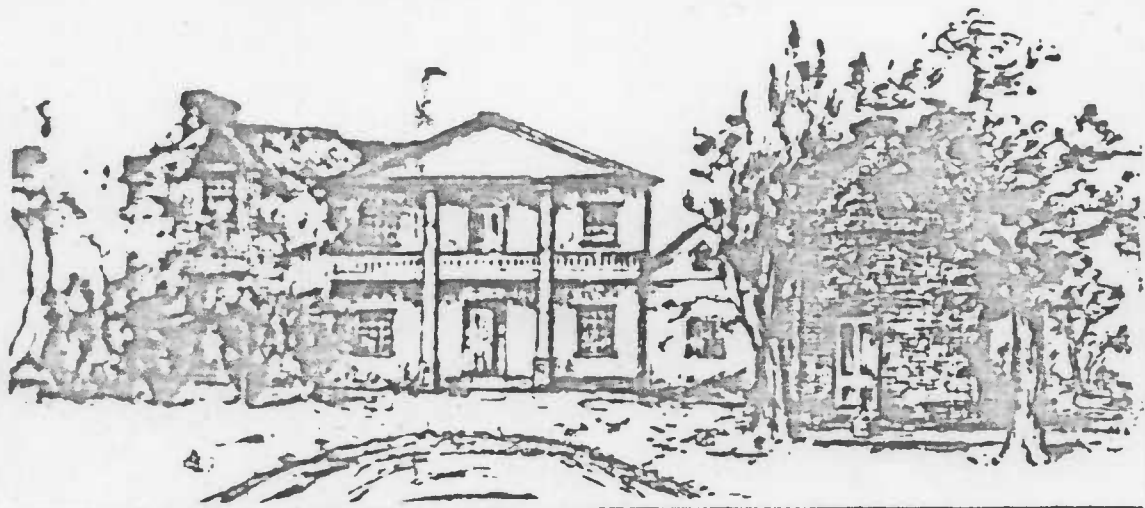


PG.82A-16



MOUNT AIRY AG:82A-16
 Prince George's County
 Maryland

source: The Evening Star (Washington, D. C.)
 16 July 1892



THE MT. AIRY MANSION

Home of the Elder Branch of the
 Calvert Family.

AS A SOCIAL CENTER.

Annapolis and Its Vicinity the Seat of Wealth
 and Aristocracy—The Calvert Estate—Ben-
 edict Calvert's Descendants—The Oldest and
 Youngest—Description of the Grounds.

Written for The Evening Star.



SO MUCH HAS BEEN
 written and said about
 Riverdale, at Bladens-
 burg, some six miles
 from Washington, being
 the home of the Cal-
 verts that even Mary-
 landers do not know

Among these old letters I found so many evi-
 dences of the loving kindness of the father for
 his children. One, dated not very long before
 his death, in 1751, is addressed to them both:

"DEAR BEN AND BETSEY: By Capt. Ander-
 sen I sent you the underwritten things in a box
 enclosed in another by Mr. Phipps, which I
 hope you have received long before this:

"One pair of velvet mittens for Mrs. Ogle.
 They are sent by themselves.

"One pair for my dear Betsey.

"One silver porringer and cover.

"One pearl necklace, containing 330 pearls,
 both ends sealed up together with my seal.
 One pair silver pitchers from Mary Lemon.



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Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

south elevation

1



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

SE elevations

2



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

East elevation



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

East elevation

4



Mt. Airy

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

PG:82A-16

North elevation



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

West elevation



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

1st floor, east wing, north side of center
room



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

1st floor, hyphen from east wing to west
wing

8



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

1st floor, west wing, west wall of south
room



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

1st floor, east wing, south wall of north
room

10



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

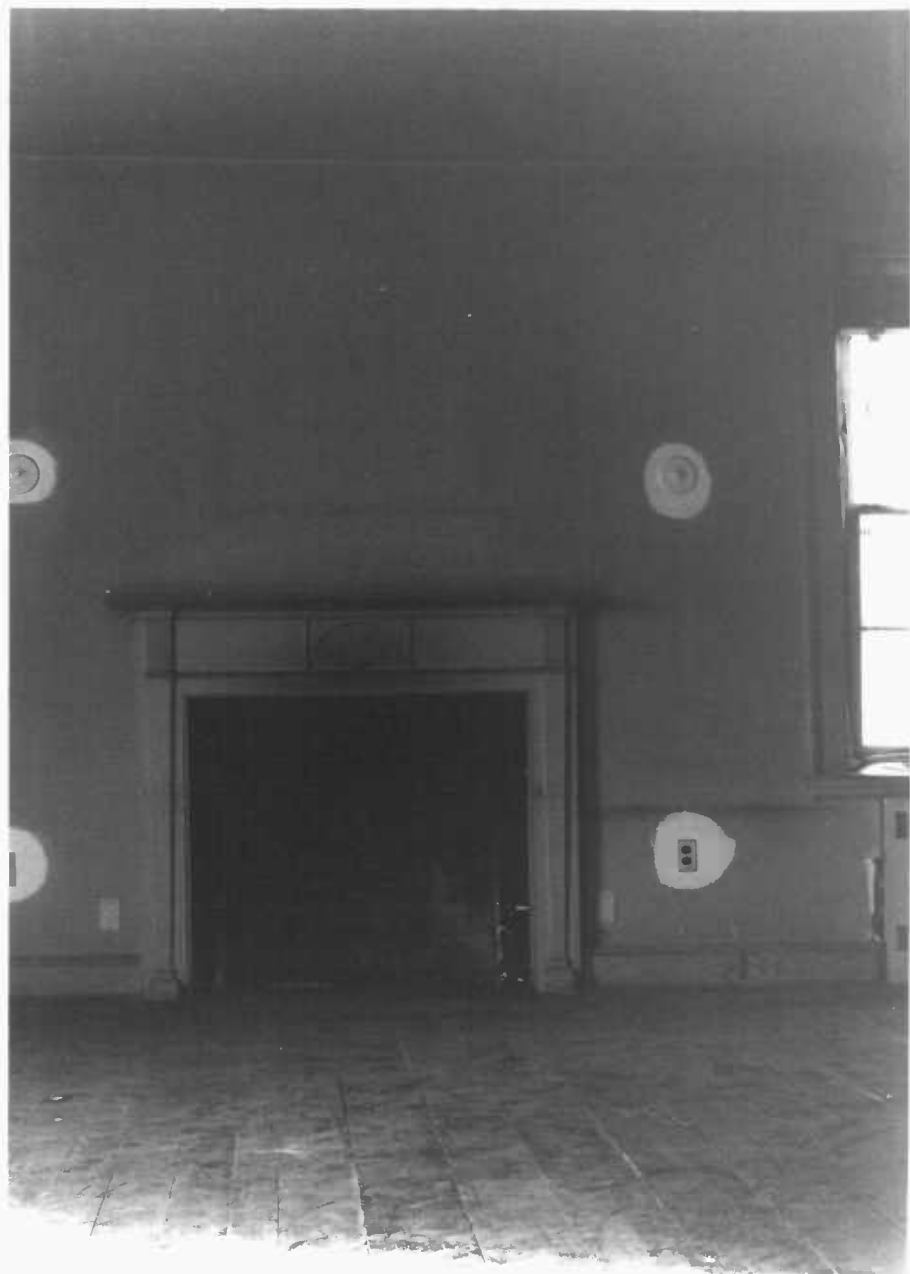
Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

1st floor, east wing, west wall of south
room

11



Mt. Airy

PG:82A-16

Prince George's County

27 October 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

2nd floor, west wing, west wall of south
room

12



MA Ariz. PG 82A-16

Stran reaction catalogue 1963

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The old girls' school for the first time. (1877) - 1877

mt. Henry

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photo during Lewisall morning
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but original may be in
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MT Aug 26 82A-16

located during Duvall emergency

photo from Margaret Duvall but
original may be in L of Congress

MT Aug 26

Merry Xmas - and a Happy New Year!



The Dear Kroe.
1939

From
Eleanor Patterson.

P682A-16

MOUNT AIRY,
ROSARYVILLE STATE PARK
SOUTH ELEVATION
CHRISTMAS 1939



Mount Airy

~~1824~~
P.G.82A-14

56% (A)

Richard P. Laine August 1972



Hammond, John Martin

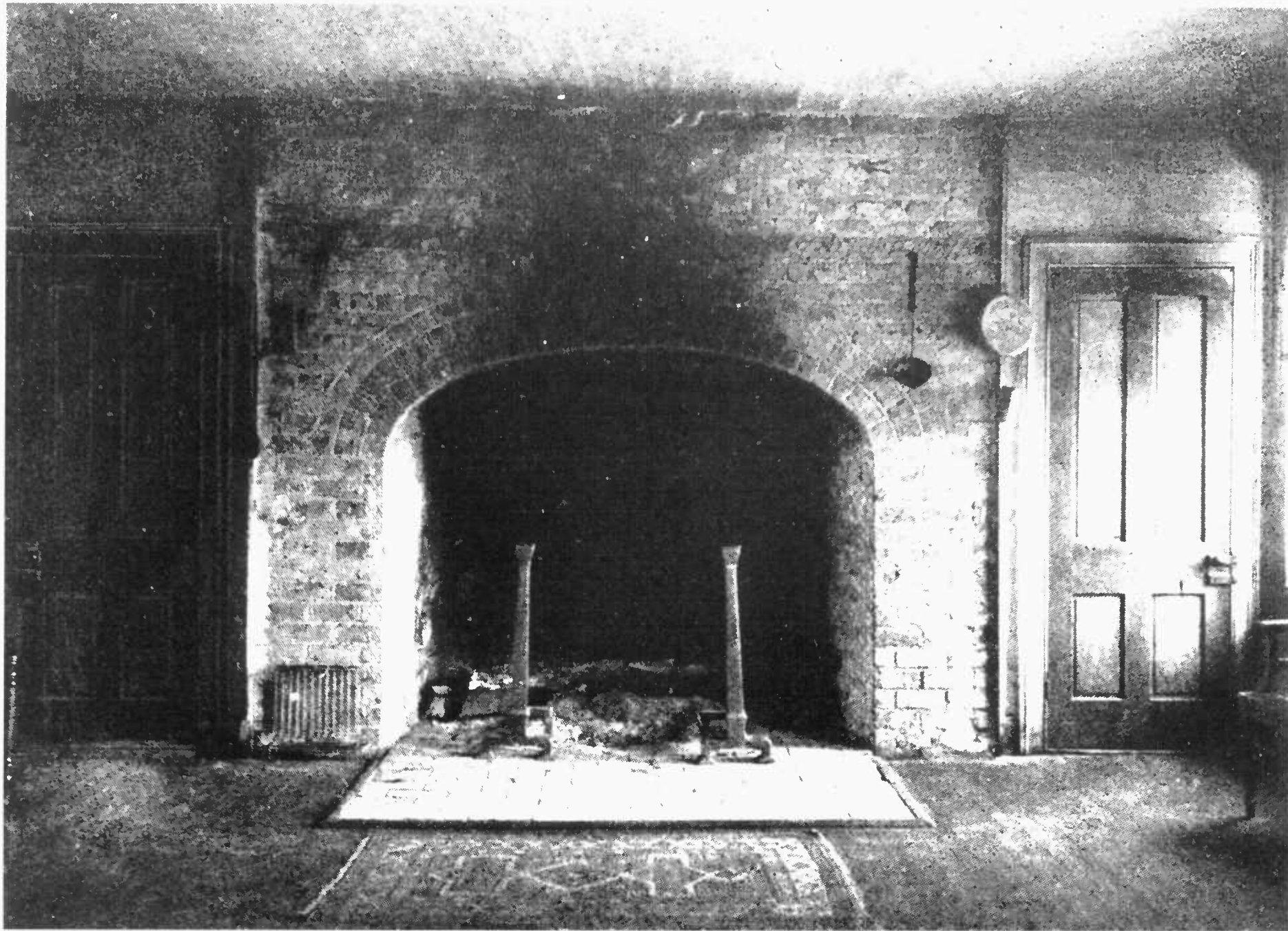
Colonel, Master of Maryland & Delaware

Phila: J. B. Lippincott

1914

Oct 23, 1880 to 1887

Mt. Airy, CE 82A-14



Hammond, John Martin

Colonial Manners of Maryland & Delaware

Edna: J. S. Lippincott

1914

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MT Ariz. PG.

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PG 82A-16;DNR-3

Mount Airy
Rosaryville State Park
Rosaryville, Maryland

East Wing
East Facade

L of C
pre-1931

PGW
10876
MD
17 Rosaryville
2-3

EPA R72



PG 82A-16;DNR-3

Mount Airy
Rosaryville State Park
Rosaryville, Maryland

East Wing
East Facade

L of C
pre-1931

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FAA 1271

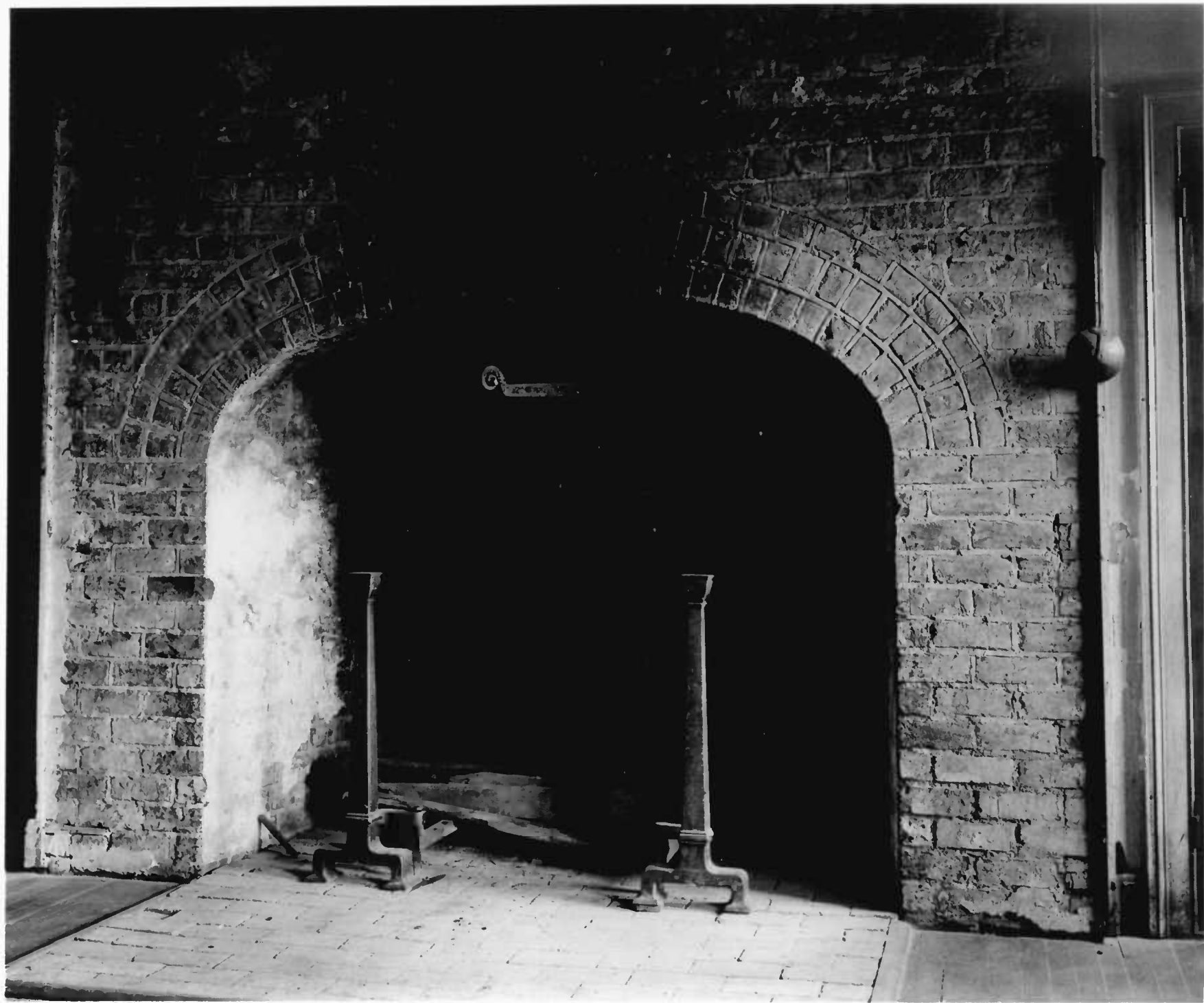


Library of Congress pre 1931

Mount Airy
Rosaryville State Park
Rosaryville, Maryland

East Wing-West Facade
West Wing-South Facade

L of C
pre-1931



Mount Airy
Rosaryville State Park
Rosaryville, Maryland

Fireplace
East Wing, Center Section
North Wall

L of C
pre-1931

RBW

10826

MD

17 Rosv. V.

2-4

EAA 5311



PG82A-16;DNR-3

Mount Airy
Rosaryville State Park
Rosaryville, Maryland

East Wing
NE Facade

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Mount Airy
Rosaryville State Park
Rosaryville, Maryland

East Wing
East Facade

L of C
1931

ROW

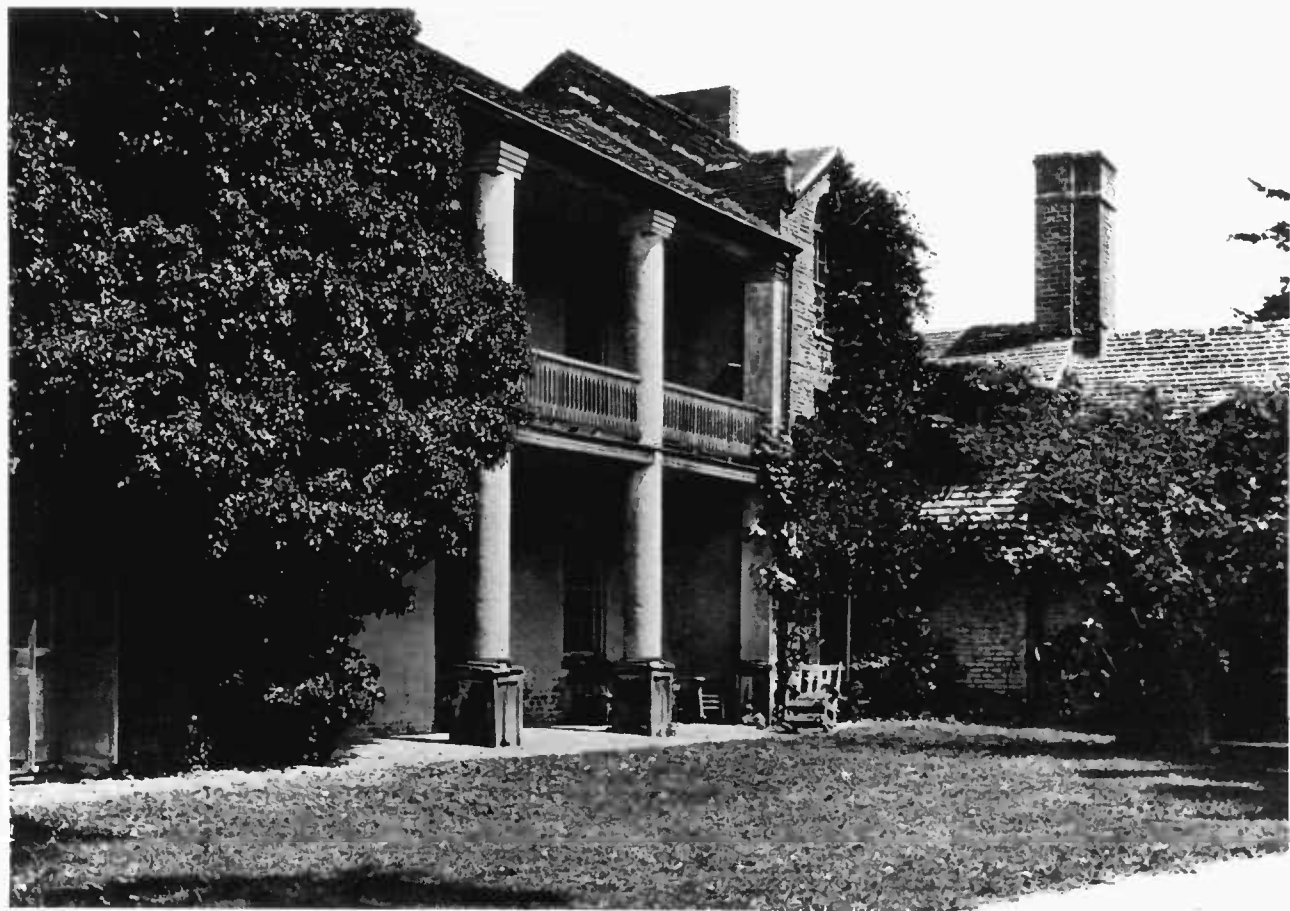
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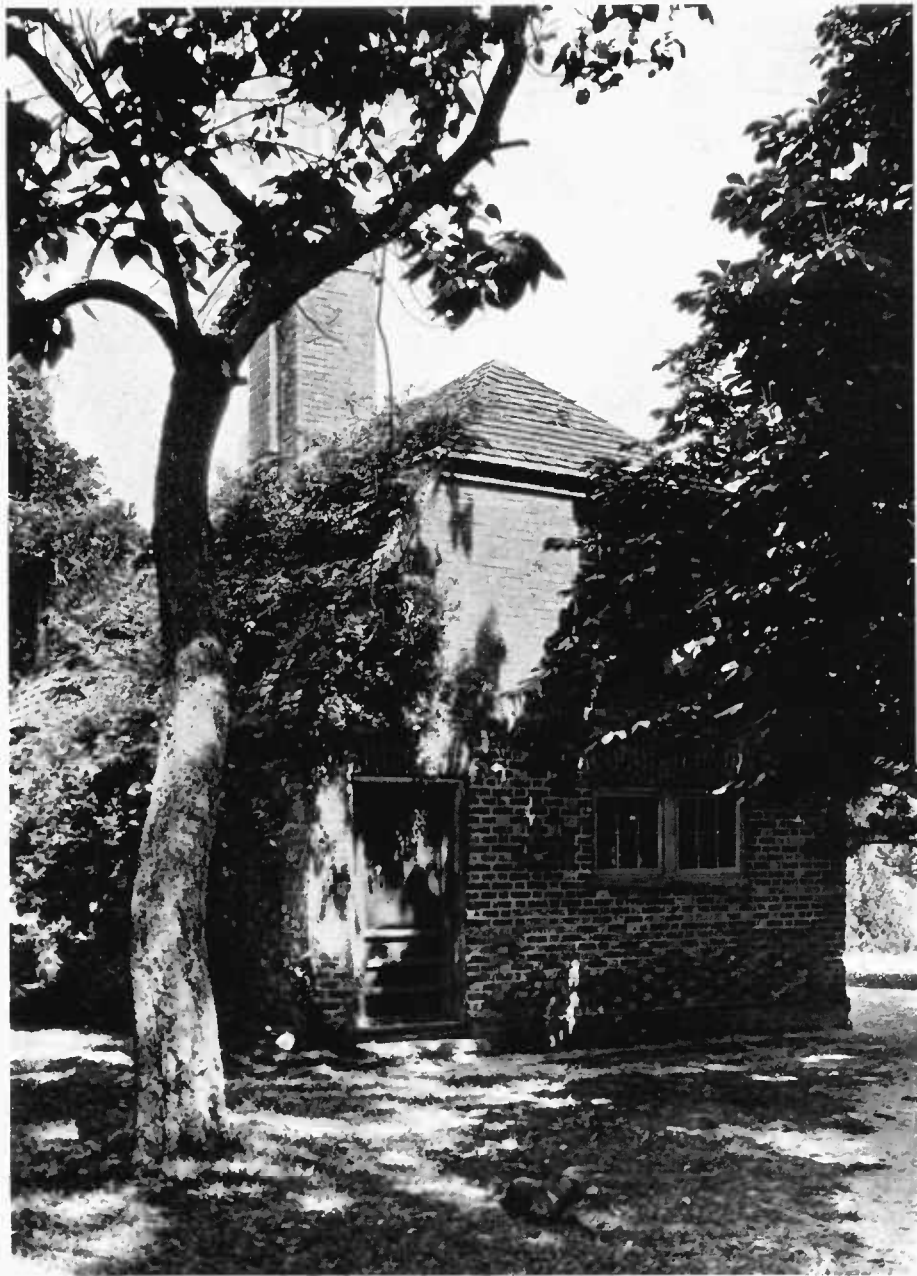
MD 112



Mount Airy
from Scarff, John H. The Monograph Series:
The Architecture of the American Colonies
of the Early Republic. No. 4, Vol. XVI.
Plate II



Mount Airy
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The Architecture of the American Colonies
of the Early Republic. No. 4, Vol. XVI.
Plate III



Mount Airy
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Plate IV